

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications for this paper should be accompanied by the name of the author, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith on the part of the writer. Write only on one side of the paper. Be particularly careful in giving names and dates, to have all letters or figures plain and distinct.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Personal and Literary.

—William Shakspeare is the name of a new English tenor.

—Mrs. Stuart, the widow of the late Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, will teach in a girls' school at Staunton, Va., next session.

—Queen Victoria has lent to the London Caxton Exhibition a book—the *Mentz Psalter*—which is valued at \$15,000. It is the first printed book bearing a date, this date being 1457.

—Mr. Darwin made a series of careful observations on the early mental development of one of his sons, and is going to print them under the title of "A Biographical Sketch of an Infant."

—"Helen's Babies" has reached a sale of nearly a quarter of a million copies, about equally divided between this country and Great Britain, where it was seized upon by at least six different houses.

—Elizabeth C. Clapham is the name of the young woman, a daughter of a Scottish advocate, who wrote Mr. Sankey's famous hymn, "The Ninety and Nine." It was written on the spur of the moment for the *Children's Hour*, a paper published by her cousin in Edinburgh.

—Mr. Ralph Waldo Emerson's speech at the dinner given to President Hayes in Boston was as follows: "Mr. Mayor, I have to return my sincere acknowledgements for your invitation to attend your most welcome entertainment, and I wish I could express in fitting terms my thanks. But I was always a bad speaker, and am more so in my old age. The President, I am sure, will forgive me for endeavoring to sit down."

—The Nashville *American* says of Georgia's dead poet, Asa Watson: "Of the brilliant galaxy, the light of whose genius shone through the South's cloud of adversity during the civil war—Tinsod, Lanier, Randall, Requier, Hayne, Hatcher, Barrick, Flash, Watson—none wrote 'the songs of the people' in sweeter, more sympathetic and tuneful verse than the last, not the least, of these favorites of the Southern home-circle and bivouac fire."

—A number of American women wrote to Charles Reade, thanking him for his defense of the women doctors in Edinburgh in his new novel. In reply, he acknowledges the courtesy of the letter, and returns thanks for the encouragement it has given him. The American women who seek to become doctors have not, Mr. Reade says, obstacles of so severe a nature to contend with as their English sisters have. The American women have a higher degree of fortitude, and their nation is too brave, chivalrous and just to persist in siding with the strong against the weak. Mr. Reade wishes he were 20 years younger and in better health, so that he might become the champion of a cause the success of which he has so closely at heart.

School and Church.

—A remarkable revival is reported in Baltimore. There have been in three churches an aggregate of nearly 1,200 conversions.

—It is reported that Messrs. Moody and Sankey will begin meetings on the 1st of September in the city of Baltimore, to continue one month.

—The General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church, at its late meeting in Sparta, Ill., decided against permitting the use of musical instruments in public worship.

—According to the Year Book of Trinity Church of New York City, the total amount of property held by the corporation is \$7,000,000; the annual revenue is \$500,000.

—Among the premiums awarded at a school examination in Lancaster, Penn., was a \$5 gold piece to Miss Grace Muench for "the most skillful darning of stockings."

—The Rev. W. W. Boyd, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Charlestown, Mass., and one of the ablest and most prominent of the young ministers of his denomination in Boston, has accepted a call to the Second Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo.

—Bishop Andrews, who has been making a tour of the world, inspecting the Methodist Episcopal foreign missions, expects to embark for America on the 25th of July. The last two months of his stay abroad will be spent in Germany, Denmark and Sweden.

—Since Archbishop Bayley, of Baltimore, went to Europe his disease has developed into softening of the brain, and he has been sent to a monastery in northern France. There is little hope that he will ever recover his mind, and accordingly Bishop Gibbons, of Richmond, has been appointed his successor by the Pope.

—Amherst College this year conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity upon a Roman Catholic clergyman, Father Hewitt, of New York. This is a new and strange departure for Amherst, which was founded by orthodox New England Congregationalists, and has ever since been under the control of that denomination.

—A scientific expedition, consisting of students and professors from Princeton College, New Jersey, starts on June 20 for the far West—the valley of the Green River, a branch of the Colorado, being the field of explorations. The primary object is to collect materials for the college museum and secure valuable material for the scientific school. The trustees have contributed \$5,000 toward defraying expenses.

Science and Industry.

—Troy makes 200,000 iron boot jacks per year.

—The area under wheat in Great Britain was 22 per cent less in 1876 than in 1869.

—The amber trade in Prussia is paralyzed by the war, Turkey being the chief consumer.

—A German firm is manufacturing a substance they term steel iron, in five different varieties, so that they can furnish steel upon iron, iron between two layers of iron, steel core and iron skin, or iron core and steel skin.

—A barrel of tannin extract is produced from a cord of hemlock bark, the value of which is \$20. A cord of alder, it is now found, will yield the same amount, while a ton of sweet fern gives \$22 worth of the best tannin and \$7 of an inferior kind. In Maine the industry of extracting tannin from ferns has already attained considerable dimensions.

—Mr. Eli Wayland, an old citizen of this county, and a resident of Salisbury, says the Perryville (Mo.) *Forum*, exhibited in town on Thursday last the model of an invention of his that he has just patented, and which is undoubtedly destined to work a reformation in the labor of farming. It is a device by which 10 different implements may be combined in one machine. It is a seed-sower, corn-planter, hay rake, roller, two one-horse plows, hoe, meadow-splitter, sulky-plow and corn-marker.

—New York handles about 5,000 alligator skins per annum. The business is entirely in the hands of a single firm, who employ men to pursue the reptile in the bayous of the Mississippi River, and the work is usually done at night by the aid of lanterns, the rifles used being aimed straight at the creature's eyes. If the alligators are too old or too young, the ammunition used on them is thrown away, for in such cases the skin is either too horny or too small. A good size is eight or nine feet, counting nothing beyond the thick part of the tail.

—Mention is made of a sample lump of condensed milk, weighing some 112 pounds, which has been exhibited before the Society of Arts in London, an interesting experiment having also been made on the same during its exhibition. This mammoth piece of solidified fluid was prepared according to the most approved process, and had been exposed to the action of the air for four years and three months, yet its quality of excellence had been so perfectly preserved during all that period that in a few minutes it was resolved by churning into good fresh butter.

Haps and Mishaps.

—Samuel Lindsley, an old resident of Eaton County, Mich., was instantly killed by being thrown from a reaping machine. The horses became frightened, ran away, and dragged him a considerable distance.

—Charles and John Dickens, brothers, of Elk County, Kansas, were hauling logs, and while leading a large log on the wagon, the chain which was hold-

ing it broke, letting the log roll back from the wagon with great force, passing over Charles, killing him instantly, and catching John about the hips, pinning him to the ground, where he remained for some hours before help came to extricate him. The latter was not seriously injured.

—A daughter of George Pinney, aged 8 years, of Cherubusco, Ind., attempted to light a fire with kerosene oil, when the oil exploded, saturating her clothes, which were burned completely from her body. She lingered three hours in terrible agony.—At Omaha, Neb., Miss Jensen, in attempting to light a fire with kerosene, was burned fatally.

—Fourth of July incidents: At Kingston Hall, R. I., an old brass cannon, used in firing salutes, was prematurely discharged, killing Walter Waite, and seriously injuring Charles Aldrich and an old colored man, named Lum Rhodas. Mr. Adams also had an eye badly injured.—At Philadelphia, Wm. Russer, aged 10, was accidentally shot and almost instantly killed by Wm. Coleburn; and George Igo, aged 6, was shot and killed by Edward Dean, aged 13. Dean was arrested.—At Cedarville, Ind., Joshua Parker had both arms blown off, and his face and breast badly burned, by the premature discharge of a cannon; and at Maryville, Ind., George Ruse had one arm blown off in the same manner.—At Paris, Ill., a cannon exploded, instantly killing Isaac Sanford, a youth of 15, son of Receiver Sanford, of the Paris and Danville Railway.—At Omaha, William Kelley was fatally injured by the explosion of a small cannon.

Foreign Notes.

—"No young girl has cause to envy the Princess Beatrice of England," writes the London correspondent of the *New York Times*. She is dressed as a dowdy, and obliged to be a companion of the Queen in her very humdrum existence.

—Countess Lauretta Lambertine, who asserts that she is the natural daughter of the late Cardinal Antonelli, has commenced action, claiming the whole of his property, which is estimated at many million francs.

—The German Government is preparing the organization and equipment of the Landsturm, which comprises all able-bodied men from 17 to 50 years of age not belonging to the Line, Reserve or Landwehr. The Landsturm has not been summoned since 1813.

—Queen Victoria has caused four ladies of her Court to be censured for wearing unbecoming costumes. It is understood that their fault lay in wearing garments abbreviated about the neck and shoulders. One of the ladies censured was the Viscountess Mandeville, who is an American by birth.

—Early marriages are very common in Russia, and a large proportion of the officers in the army, even those of the lowest grade, are married. It is quite different in the German, French, and British armies, where an officer is not allowed to marry until he attains a certain rank, or satisfies the authorities that he is able to assume the responsibilities of domestic life. But most of the married Russian officers are in a state of poverty, as their pay is very small.

—The diploma distributed to each pilgrim in memory of the Pope's jubilee is a finely lithographed and arabesque sheet of paper, on the corners of which are the four great churches of Rome—St. John Lateran, St. Peter's, Santa Maria Maggiore and St. Paul's—and, in addition, the portraits of Saints Peter and Paul, the palm, the dove and other sacred emblems, surrounded by Latin words recording the accession of Pius IX. to the apostolic chair. On each diploma the pilgrim's name and country are written.

—Mr. Barry Sullivan, the English actor, has lately had a curious operation performed upon his eye. He was accidentally struck by a sword in that sensitive organ, some months ago, while playing Richard III. The eye has never since completely healed, and the physician concluded that some foreign substance must have lodged in the eyeball. The necessary operation was performed, and an eyelash removed, which had been thrust in at the point of the sword. Mr. Sullivan is now recovered.

Odd and Ends.

—The best present for a base-ball club—An ice pitcher.

—"We ain't as patriotic as we used

to be," mournfully remarked an undertaker, glancing gloomily over his order-slate on the 5th of July.—*St. Louis Journal*.

—Oh, the flies! the horrible flies! Buzzing around like election lies; Dodging about like a maniac's dream, Over the butter and into the cream, Holding conventions all over the bread, Biting your ears and tickling your head, Crawling, Buzzing.

—Too busy to die—Dog gone the nasty, pestiferous fly.

—A scientific writer says that death by lightning stroke is the most painless death in the world. We don't know about that. We never talked with a man who was struck by lightning, but a man whose wife once caught him kissing the hired girl told us in confidence that he would never have believed that a man could suffer as much in a thousand years as he did in twenty seconds.—*Hawk-eye*.

—The King of Bavaria one day met a soldier with a wooden leg, and asked him when he lost it. "In the war of 1866," replied the warrior gruffly. "Don't you know me?" asked the King somewhat piqued at the soldier's manner. "No; how should I," was the reply; "you don't go to the wars, and I don't go to the opera." His Majesty, as you know, is Wagner's principal royal patron.

—When President Hayes got to Rhode Island, he said: "Now, friends, I have come to see your beautiful State—where is it?" "Excuse me, sir," said a polite citizen, "but you are stepping on it now; it is right under your feet." And the President was so startled for fear he would do some injury that he floundered around a little, and got one foot across one line, and the other across another, and so Connecticut and Massachusetts had him mostly to themselves, after all.

The Russian Peasants.

The Russian Commune, or *Mir*, is the most prominent among Russian institutions. It constitutes a sort of democratic government. The "Assembly," which is composed of the heads of families, makes all the laws, directs all during the harvest, manages the labor, punishes those who do not pay their taxes, etc. It elects the Elder (asort of Mayor), the Collector, the watchmen of the night, the Burgher of the village. At certain periods the Central Administration reviews all the male peasants of the Commune, from the latest-born to the centenarian, and each Commune pays to the Government an annual sum proportionate to the enumeration. All families are collectively and individually responsible for the payment of this sum. It is important, therefore, that every one should work, as idleness does not prevent the payment of individual taxes, and they must be borne by others. The system of corporal punishment still remains in use against those who do not pay their dues.

The Commune distributes land between its members as it judges proper, according to the resources of the applicants, or, rather, their ability to work; besides which, every family owns a house and garden, which is its hereditary property, and is never disturbed by the other periodical redistributions. Many peasants go to work in cities, and remain there a large portion of the year, and some permanently; but this does not prevent their title to their rural homes, or exempt them from the tax. The women and children remain in the villages. When work fails, or old age or sickness arrives, the Russian peasant retires to his country-home, and the law preserves his cabin, his agricultural tools, his horse, and household furniture when he becomes helpless or insolvent.

There is a wonderful aptitude in these peasants to support heat and cold. You see coachmen quietly seated on their boxes, in the doors of theaters or grand establishments, in the most excessive cold; you see the same men as placidly supporting the excessive heat of vapor baths. In most of the villages there is a public bath of this description, but instances are common where peasants take their vapor-bath in the bake-house where the family bread is baked. The operation is always pushed to the most extreme limit that man can endure; and often in winter the peasant leaves this excessive heat, and rolls in snow. Capable of resisting all temperatures, habituated to live on little, workers, and disciplined, the Russian peasants possess all the qualities to make good soldiers.